

# MAINE FARMER

AGRICULTURE MECHANIC ARTS GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

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NO. 1.

## THE MAINE FARMER.

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

### COMMENCEMENT OF THE VOLUME.

With this number we commence the 15th volume of the FARMER. Our readers will perceive that, as we promised, we have enlarged the size, and made other improvements by new type and new engraved head.

We begin the year with renewed hopes that our efforts to make the "Farmer" a medium worthy of the cause it has espoused, and an efficient co-worker with others in the business of diffusing useful knowledge among the people of Maine, will be met with a corresponding effort on the part of the people to encourage and sustain us by the contributions of their pens and their purses, and give us as much of approbation as we may deserve. The progress of improvement is slow but sure, and though we may not realize at first the effect of the changes that are going on about us, yet, as we pause and look back, we can mark the difference between the periods with which the comparisons are made. While making such comparisons we feel ourselves cheered and encouraged. We see the progress of society in the arts of life, and note the gradual giving way of prejudice and ignorance to the light of true "matters of fact" breaks in upon them. Knowledge is a record of facts, of truth, and truth will ultimately prevail, yet before she can always be brought out, and compelled to lend her powerful strength, it is oftentimes necessary to seek her amid the envelopments of error, and to divest her, by patient experiments, of much that covers and hides her from the acquaintance of her most ardent votaries. This search for truth requires the combined efforts of man. It demands the united strength and energy of the community, and the indefatigable perseverance of all. It is this array of power, this union of intellect and physical means that we wish to rally on our side, and enlist in our cause.

The farmer, the mechanic, the professional man, the merchant and the man of leisure, the rich and the poor, the high and the humble, the old and the young, the parent and the child, are all, directly or indirectly, interested in this cause. All the inhabitants of Maine should lend their influence, whether it be little or whether it be much, to the promotion of the welfare of the State, and to the spreading of genuine knowledge among the people. They will be strong and powerful, great and respected, in proportion as they are informed—educated and miserable in proportion as they are ignorant. Surely then it is a solemn duty, incumbent upon every individual to look well to his own improvement, and thereby improve the great mass. We would urge this upon all an indispensable duty, and one which cannot be neglected without danger. Seek knowledge and diffuse knowledge should be your motto. Choose your own mode of doing it, but be sure and do it. Do it fervently, do it honestly, and when you are called to cease your labors on earth, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that, though you may have labored in an humble sphere, you have not labored in vain, and that though your individual works cannot be singled out from the great mass, yet, like the rain drops, they have served to swell the streams which invigorate and nourish the fields through which they flow.

### [For the Maine Farmer.] LARGE CROP OF CORN.

The past fine season has served to exhilarate the temperaments of all concerned. Many fine crops have been reported through the proper medium. And as the means to such success, is, in our brotherhood, to be no secret, we hope to be a little wiser next year. We, of the eastern portion of your readers, have waited for our friends west of the Kennebec, to out with their last bag of corn, that we may open our reserved fire with the greater effect. In the "Farmer," of the 10th inst., the "People's Press" man has put on the crop of Esq. Weston, of Bloomfield, as a cap-sheaf, and intimates that he holds in reserve a cap to all bragging. We ever fancy ourselves in good company when we with the Kennebeckers and "Oxford Bears," and lest they may, by having this contest all to themselves, conclude we are not able to hold a candle to their valor, we will state one case in point, and like the P. Press man, hold on to a strong reserve.

I brought some fine large eight rowed seed-corn from Worcester Co., Mass., in Oct. 1845, and planted from it about the 20th of last May. Early in September, being about to make a journey, and wishing to know the comparative yield of this with that of the "Dutton," we gathered several bushels, and by a careful measurement of the (360) bushels of ears per acre.

Some young people, seeing a yield of kernels per ear reported in the "Farmer," went to the dark to the garret and selected an ear of this corn, and on shelling and counting, the number was a few greater than the case reported.

Yours, as ever,  
C. C.

P. S. Should I fail to carry out my intentions to be at Augusta, on the 6th of Jan., hope our craft will be for have compared notes that I may know where to apply for seeds of the best apples, &c.

Pozcroft, Dec. 22d, 1846.

New PLOUGH. A French paper informs us that a new plough has been constructed at Viry sur Seine, the invention of M. Blot. It is provided with three shares, one of all which may be used at a time, as the operator or the character of the surface may require. The trial of this instrument was, it is said, perfectly successful. With this plough a man and a span of horses will easily plough six acres per day. So says the French account.

### SEASONED TIMBER.

The difference in the specific weight of green and seasoned wood, is, as our readers are probably aware, very great. A single cubic foot of oak wood weighs, when green, 53.74 lbs., but when perfectly seasoned, only 39.37. In looking over "Trevelock's Elementary Principles," we chanced upon the following, which we extract for the benefit of our readers.

Laughton's method of seasoning timber by the direct extraction of the sap. As green wood consists of woody fibre, saturated with the natural fluid called the sap of the tree, it is obvious that a method of separating the sap without injury to the woody fibre, is one of the most important discoveries that has been made in the management of timber. From three to five years, in the usual method, necessary to render green wood fit for use; and so long is not only the use of the capital employed to purchase it lost to the consumer, but also the manufacturer must have a larger capital to conduct his business, than with a quicker mode of drying. \* \* \*

When green wood is placed in the receiver of an air-tight pump, as the air is exhausted by the pump, the sap being no longer confined by atmospheric pressure, separates from the wood, and if heat be applied, so as to convert this sap into vapor as fast as it rises at the surface of the wood, as if the means of condensing the vapor be provided, the whole of the sap will soon be extracted from the wood, and this is the process proposed.

We have no question that where small quantities of wood are required for immediate use, and where delay would be attended with considerable expense, the method recommended by Mr. Laughton, would be found both practicable and economical; but where large timber is required to be used, it would unquestionably be attended with a heavy expense.

### IMPROVED INSTRUMENTS.

Farmers are now enabled to perform vastly more work and in an infinitely better manner than formerly, in consequence of the very important advantage of possessing better tools. The improvements that have, within the last few years, been effected in ploughs, harrows, hoes, scythes, and indeed in almost all the instruments used or required to be used on the farm, by mechanical invention and ingenuity, have created a new era in Agriculture, and renders labor far more easy, and at the same time more efficient, in the attainment of its legitimate ends. There is scarcely an implement required in the prosecution of farm-work which has not received some valuable and important emendation. For such signal benefits we ought, assuredly, to be thankful.

### CHEAP ROOFS FOR OUT-BUILDINGS.

It is frequently necessary to construct out-buildings, sheds, &c., of a cheap character for temporary use, but which are, nevertheless, required to be well protected from the weather. The following simple and expeditious method of roofing out-houses and other similar structures, may, therefore, be of service to some of our readers. The rafters are to be four inches deep and two and a half thick; the covering to be of boards, 3-4 of an inch, straight edged, and securely nailed to prevent warping. Over this place a course of common sheathing paper, such as is ordinarily used under the copper sheathing of vessels, and make it fast by small nails. Then apply a composition made of the following ingredients, viz:—eight gallons of common tar, two of Roman cement, three pounds of tallow and five of rosin. These ingredients should be well boiled and thoroughly incorporated and applied when hot. Care should be had that the composition be spread as evenly as possible, and covered before it has cooled with a stratum of sharp, finely sifted sand. On this another coat of tar is to be spread and another of sand as before, after which nothing more is required to secure the possession of a tight roof for years, except an occasional dressing of tar. Some may object to this species of roofing from the supposition that being composed mostly of highly deflagrable materials, it would prove too combustible. But this, if it be a reasonable objection, may be easily obviated by giving the whole a coat composed of the following materials:—

Slack common stone lime in a close vessel, and when cool pass eight quarts through a fine sieve; add to it one quart fine salt and two gallons of pure water. Boil and skim. Then, to every four gallons of this mixture, add one and a quarter pounds of rock slum, three fourths of a pound of copperas, half a pound potash, and five quarts fine beach sand. This wash will now admit any coloring matter that may be desired, and may be applied with a paint or white-wash brush in the same manner as oil paints. A writer remarking upon the good qualities of this preparation for roofs, says:—"It looks better than paint, will stop leaks in the roof, prevent moss from growing, and, when laid upon brick-work, will render it impenetrable to rain or moisture." A wash of this kind might be beneficially applied to the roofs of houses, barns and other buildings, instead of paints.

### HORSEPOWER HAY-FORK.

I was reading, a short time since, in your paper, (the Maine Farmer) respecting a Hay-Fork for unloading hay. (It was in the issue of October 15th.) The particulars not being stated as to the manner in which the Fork was moved from one part of the barn to the other; also, the way in which the Fork was made, I have taken the liberty to ask of you (if you have them) these particulars, in doing which you will very much oblige me. A Subscriber.

NOTE. We have not obtained any. The account of them was taken from a N. Y. paper, we believe, and we have been looking for further information in regard to them, as we feel desirous of seeing one if they prove to be of practical value. It is a hard job to pitch hay, and any machine that will ease the labor would be valuable. [Ed.]



Portrait of the Alpaca or Peruvian Sheep.

### THE ALPACA.

Some have thought that we already have all the domestic animals among us that could be made to flourish. This is not the case. There are many more, in different parts of the world, that might be made very profitable if brought among us and taken proper care of. We mean many more that have been domesticated in other countries. There are undoubtedly many more now in a wild state, which, if caught and tamed and propagated for a series of years would become a valuable acquisition to us. Among the animals already in a highly domesticated state and which would, no doubt, live and do well in Maine, is the Alpaca of Peru. We have several times, heretofore, called the attention of our readers to this animal, and intend to reiterate it as long as it will be necessary. Nearly twenty years ago we received some of the Alpaca wool from South America, specimens of which we distributed among our friends, and also sent a specimen to the Patent Office with a view of calling attention to the subject. Within a year or two, considerable importation has been paid to the question of importing this animal into New York. It was proposed to get up a joint stock company, and expend ten thousand dollars in the enterprise. Whether all the stock has been taken up we do not know. Several individuals in Vermont are endeavoring to import some of them from Peru.

The proprietors of the New York Farmer and Mechanic, published an interesting pamphlet on the Alpaca, year before last, and more recently, a writer in the American Agriculturist has had several numbers in that valuable work. We are indebted to that writer for the following facts in regard to its introduction into England. Some of our readers may think it visionary to recommend the introduction of the Alpaca into Maine. We have no doubt that it will flourish well here. It is a native of the high snowy mountains of South America, and its home is said to be a temperature similar to ours. It can be successfully transported into the moist climate of England, and reared with little trouble, it will assuredly do well in Maine, whose climate, soil and hills, are more congenial to its nature and habits.

It appears by the writer in the Agriculturist above mentioned, that in 1817, D. Bennett, of Berks, England, received a pair of Alpacas, fed them as he did his sheep with hay and turnips. From this pair he raised a flock of fifteen. Viscount Inglestrey imported a pair from Valparaiso. They stood the voyage well, and he bred three or four lambs from them. Thomas Stevenson, of Oban, Argyleshire, had a dozen shipped from Peru for him, all died but four. He fed them as he did his highland cattle, and found that they did well. They grew to weigh about 175 lbs. These never bred. Several other gentlemen imported the Alpaca. These animals were obtained principally as curiosities, and but little systematic attempt was made to make the breeding of them a business.

An attempt has been made, hitherto, with good success, to introduce this animal into the island of Great Britain. Robert Bell, Esq., of Villa House, near Listowel, in the county of Kerry, has a small herd which he imported, and which fare as his cattle and sheep do, and which appear to be as hearty as the native sheep of that country. Facts of this kind are valuable to those who may be desirous of embarking in this new enterprise. If some of our merchants or seamen may go to Peru, would be at a little expense to bring some of these animals to Maine, we have no doubt they would do well and become a valuable addition to our stock of domestic animals.

WHORTLEBERRY. The whortleberry is capable of successful introduction into garden culture. A gentleman in Wayne county, Michigan, has a little whortleberry tree growing in his garden which was transplanted from a marsh about ten years ago. It is about ten feet high, and about an inch and half diameter at the root. It stands in a rich, sandy alluvial soil. The fruit is improved in size, and is equal in flavor to that produced in the swamps. The yield is said to be more abundant and more certain. The tree is watered daily in very dry weather, and perhaps might do well without it. If efforts to cultivate in a dry soil be not successful, a more moist one might be tried. The smaller variety, growing on the openings, might be tried. They probably would flourish as well with the same treatment, as current bushes, and surely this delicious fruit is worth rescuing from the extinction that seems to await it; for it is much more palatable than the current, and requires less sweetening.

[Vt. Chronicle.]

An itinerant preacher, on West, declares that the miser, when he dies, and attempts to fly up to heaven, will find a bag of gold tied to every feather of his wings, the weight of which will sink him to perdition.

### THE WOODMAN'S GLEE.

Hurrah for the woods, hurrah!  
The winter is opening well!  
The axe of great steel  
Is ready the pine to fell,  
And death through the forest dead!  
Hurrah for the woods, hurrah!  
The frost lies deep in the earth,  
The snow lies deep on its breast;  
The air, transparent and cold,  
Gives to the woodman a zest,  
For deeds both worthy and bold,  
And his face lights up with mirth.  
The camp, provided with care,—  
With cuts and benches around,  
To rest the limbs of the tired  
While with jokes the evening is crowned,  
And exploits of the day admitted,  
Invites its comrades to share.  
Then hurrah for the woods, hurrah!  
The evergreen woods to cheer,  
The woods with the dazzling snow,  
The woods where the echoes clear  
Ring loud through the branches low:  
Hurrah for the woods, hurrah!

[For the Maine Farmer.]

### A FARMER'S CLUB LECTURE.

The subject which I have selected for this evening's entertainment is, POLITICAL ECONOMY; or, the economy and respectability of farming in Maine. Political economy is said to be a science; the science of government, the art or science by which the few govern and control the many. An eminent writer has said: "The final view of all rational politics is to produce the greatest quantity of happiness in a given tract of country. The riches, strength, and glory of nations, almost engages the praises, and possess the admiration of mankind, have no value far more than the happiness of the people. When they interfere with it, they are evil, and not the less real for the splendor that surrounds them."

Governments seldom aim to produce this "rational" result of government. The quantity of happiness in any given tract of country is, probably, very nearly in the ratio of the number of participants. The number of inhabitants on any given tract of country depends upon the ease and facility with which the means of subsistence can be procured. We should, therefore, naturally expect that the first care of all governments would be to augment the means of human subsistence. This reasonable expectation, however, the history of the world does not confirm. The government of this country is said to be "an experiment," and the relation in which the people are to stand, finally, towards their rulers, has not yet been reduced to a fixed fact. It is not so in other portions of the world; for there the condition of the people is fixed as unalterably as fate. In the old world mankind are divided into two classes, namely: the king and his subjects. The relation in which these two classes stand towards each other is very clearly and truly described by the author already quoted, as follows: "If you should see a flock of pigeons in a field of corn; and if, instead of each picking where and what it liked, taking just as much as it wanted, and no more, you should see ninety and nine of them gathering all they get into a heap, reserving nothing to themselves but the chaff and refuse, keeping this heap for one, and that the weakest, perhaps, and worst pigeon of the flock, sitting round and looking on all the winter, whilst this one was devouring, throwing about and wasting it; and, if a pigeon more hardy or hungry than the rest touched a grain of the hoard, all the others instantly flying upon it and tearing it to pieces. If you should see this, you would see nothing more than what is every day practiced and established among men. Among men, you see the ninety and nine toiling and scraping together a heap of superfluities for one, getting for themselves all the while but a little of the coarsest of the provision which their own labor produces, and this one, too, oftentimes, the feeblest and worst of the whole set, a child, a woman, a madman or a fool, looking quietly on while they see the fruits of all their labor spent or spoiled; and if one of them take or touch a particle of it, the others join against him and hound him for the theft."

This is "political economy," or the way the fruits of labor are divided in Europe. But we live, it is said, in a happier land—a land of freedom—a land of equality—a land where each individual is the maker of his own fortune and his own happiness. Is it so? Is it true that labor with us receives the whole reward of its toil? or do we surrender the greatest share to others? We are persons, perhaps most persons, would feel greatly shocked and indignant at the manifest injustice of the distribution of the fruits of labor, as set forth in the allegory just quoted. But is it much better in this blessed country and in this enlightened age? We have no king or nobility to support it is true, but we have parties, and we are compelled to follow the leaders—political leaders, who rule us as despotically as kings; and we are required to look up to our respective leaders to direct our industry and to regulate our domestic economy. And we are as ready as any other

people to tear each other to pieces in support of our leaders. No people, perhaps, take so deep an interest in the action of the government as the people of the United States. And what is the cause of this deep solicitude felt by all classes, in the action of the state and national government? It is because the happiness of society is supposed to depend upon it; because the people are made to believe that government can make labor more productive, and confer a corresponding share of happiness.

But it is not my purpose, Mr. President, to read a discourse upon politics, for two reasons: First, I have no taste for any question purely political; and, secondly, your constitution forbids the discussion of political questions. I shall, therefore, make no allusion to politics any further than it may be necessary in illustrating the economy of living and farming in Maine.

Having shown, very briefly, what political economy is in the old world, I now invite your attention to things at home. After taking the census, in 1840, the government, and as a consequence the people, became excessively alarmed in consequence of being made acquainted with the aggregate amount of the productions of labor; and the then President of these United States, who is also, the head professor of political economy in this country, in his annual message, in Dec., 1842, informs his subordinate professors in Congress assembled, and all the little grog-shop professors of politics throughout the country, that "the greatest evil which we have to encounter is a surplus production beyond the home demand." The having too much of every thing in general, and the necessities of life in particular, was held by our government to be our greatest cause of unhappiness. This theory, our governments, state and national, have been acting upon, politically, up to the present time, namely: that labor produces too much, and the happiness of the people, and especially agricultural labor; and the policy pursued, has been to divert capital and labor from farming to other channels less productive, or unproductive. This theory of the government most persons believe in, because they are politically told they must. But what are the facts in relation to this branch of our subject, over production? Mr. Solon Robinson, writing the first week in April, only five months after the President's Message, from Luke County, Indiana, says:—

"Cattle are starving to death by hundreds and probably thousands. Hay and straw, and all kinds of coarse grain are almost entirely consumed throughout the whole country I can hear from north of the Wabash. I fear one half the cattle now alive must die before grass can grow. This scarcity is not confined to Indiana, but extends into Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan." This statement was confirmed by other accounts, as well as by the fact of swine starving to death, as well as the nest stock. This is the account from the west, in April, 1843; and now let us look to the east in the same year, in the month of June.

I quote from a N. Y. price current, June 27, 1843. "Genesee Flour, \$5.75, common brands; Ohio and Michigan, \$5.62 1-2 to 5-7; Fancy brands, \$6 to 6.25. The receipts are light and there is no accumulation of stock; wheat \$1.20 per bushel." From the Albany price current, same date. "The flour consigned is generally sold at \$6." The following is from the Newburyport Herald, of June 30th. "The sudden rise of wheat in the State of Ohio to 95 cents per bushel, with a corresponding price in Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, is calculated to make a great change in the value of almost every description of property throughout that great grain growing district. Six and eight months ago, wheat was down to forty and fifty cents, and in many instances, much below that rate. In that depression, those farmers only that were obliged to raise money, sold their wheat. Those more affluent circumstances, kept their crops on hand." These facts show that the small farmers at the west, relying upon the declaration of the government, officially and most solemnly made, that our greatest evil is over production, sell the fruits of their labor for half, and less than half their real value. When the accounts from the east, announcing the fact that wheat, or flour had doubled in value, these western farmers must have felt very happy in the reflection that they had sold their surplus. And the eastern farmer must feel quite happy, too, in eating bread at double price, because it was evidence that the country was being rid, in some degree, of its "greatest evil," over production. This is one case, illustrating the reliance the people may place upon government for "protection," to protect labor.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

### A BEAUTIFUL SPECIMEN OF MAINE SILK MANUFACTURE.

We have examined a beautiful specimen of Silk Handkerchiefs of the growth and manufacture of Maine. The silk was raised, reeled and woven in the family of Mr. Jonathan S. Longley, of Norridgewock. The thread is very even, and the web rich and handsome. Mr. Longley has manufactured, this year, a dozen handkerchiefs, as an experiment, from a silk of his own raising, and will hereafter enlarge the business, and undoubtedly interest many of his neighbors in the enterprise of enlarging the field of home labor. This effort of Mr. Longley is highly creditable to him. He has an elevated sense of the importance and value of industry and the skill to bring it to an effective point.

This is apparent from the fact of his directing all the operations of this silk business, and also from the fact that he has the past season raised a large quantity of garden seeds and put them up in neat packages and brought them to market. The example of such a man is worth much to a community, and is calculated to give to them great thrift, and induce them to keep their eyes and their minds open to the elements and operations about them, and suitably to improve their several advantages. [Bangor Courier.]

### FRUITS IN MAINE.

We learn from the Maine Farmer that it has been proposed in that State to have a convention composed of fruit growers from different sections, for the following purposes: To collect the best native fruits of that State and compare their merits, and fix on a list of such as are found to be the most valuable for general cultivation, describe them and introduce them to the public; to collect the best fruits that have originated in other parts of the world, that bid fair to succeed well in that climate, to collect and disseminate the best information on the cultivation and preservation of fruits; to afford farmers, gardeners, orchardists, and nursery men, an opportunity to associate together for the purposes of social acquaintance and civilities, and mutual improvement.

This is a noble and excellent plan, and if properly carried out, and cultivators generally avail themselves of the advantages it affords it will diffuse throughout the State valuable information on a subject on which there is now a great deficiency; and it will be the means of adding greatly to the comforts and pleasures of every family in the State; it will also add largely to its wealth and resources.

There is no better soil in the world for fruits than the greater part of Maine; and in a large part of the State the location is excellent; and the climate is well adapted to nearly all the valuable fruits grown in this country. The cultivation of fruits spreads a delightful charm around home, and these charms are not fitful and transient like the show of summer flowers, that disappear in the autumn blast, but they ripen and improve, affording a delightful entertainment through the long and dreary winter, yet until Pomona again spreads her charms to regale those who are industrious in her cause.

There are doubtless in Maine 2,000,000 of native apple trees, now in a bearing state, and it is not reasonable to suppose that from so large a number, a small choice list may be selected of excellent kinds? We trust that the intelligent and enterprising gentlemen who have started this undertaking, will be encouraged in their exertions by a large number in all parts of the State, that the plan may be prosecuted and crowned with complete success.

Go on, ye public benefactors, in your laudable purpose, and as the result of your efforts you shall see many a spot, now barren from neglect, smiling in beauty, and rejoicing in plenty.

Since writing the above we have noticed in the Maine Farmer a call for a Convention to be held at the Court House, in Augusta, on the sixth day of January. Those who attend are requested to bring specimens of superior fruits.

We hope to contribute to the collection of fruits, at some future Convention, from our orchard in that State, as well as from this and other regions; and it would afford us much pleasure to attend such Conventions. At present we have but few good specimens of fruit, and every minute of our time is demanded by engagements, which prevent our attention to the subject.

[Boston Cultivator.]

### LOOK OUT FOR THE MICE.

Young apple trees are liable to be gnawed and girdled by mice at this season of the year. Trees that are surrounded with grass, or any kind of litter, which can be made into nests for mice, are in greater danger than such as have nothing but earth around their trunks. It is therefore advisable to remove all such litter before snow comes.

But now that the ground is covered, the right course is to beat the snow down close around each tree to prevent the making of nests there. Should this snow, which now (Dec. 14th.) covers the ground, disappear before January, and be followed by another storm, it may be necessary to perform another revolution around your trees, and teach your mice that apple trees are forbidden food and not to be eaten in peace. As January advances there is but little danger from mice that have already made no nests there, for they usually seek out permanent winter quarters before January.

We have seen thirty young trees entirely ruined by mice, that stripped off all the bark from the trunks to the height of two feet. A townsmen of our own, a few years since, one of the few farmers in Framingham who do not subscribe for the Ploughman, lost a number of very handsome apple trees that stood by his wall "where mice do congregate."

We think there were twenty trees that were stripped to the height of two feet. If he had seen our warning, which we gave early in the same winter, he might have saved, in half an hour, forty dollars worth of trees. But he had no near neighbor to lend him the Ploughman or to warn him of his danger, and he was too prudent to keep a cat, for cats must be fed in the winter when rats and mice are not to be found.

By the way, sensible farmers always keep one or two cats. We should be overrun with mice and mice were we deprived of the services of this useful sentinel. The practice of laying poisonous substances to destroy rats in a house is a very fool one. If you succeed in killing one you will find a dead rat in a bye place instead of a live one, and your house is haunted with the scent of carrion for weeks in succession.

There is no economy in living without cats. They will squall and be in the way, oftentimes, so will children, and other necessities of a family; but you cannot live comfortably without a cat. Farmers who keep good cats are not in great danger from mice around trees near the dwelling-house. Distant trees are the ones that require particular attention at this season. Mice eat cats seem to be bold and hunters than any that are kept. They grapple with the largest wharf rats.

[Mass. Ploughman.]

The "Horticulturist," for January, is usual, contains an interesting variety. This is a sterling publication, and deserves generous patronage.

### MANUAL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE. TRANSLATED, FOR THE MAINE FARMER, FROM THE FRENCH OF M. LEBLANC, IN HIS L'Encyclopédie des Sciences et des Arts. WITH NOTES BY THE AUTHOR.

#### DISEASES.

By the term "disease" is understood any derangement which occurs in the animal economy.

Without going at present into details concerning the history and classification of the diseases of the Horse, we will enumerate in a summary manner the principal signs which announce a derangement of his health.

He loses his appetite, or on the contrary it may become unutterably keen, and is unable to sleep, or may be inclined to doze most of the time.

His droop—his eyes are dull—his motions uneasy—his ears hang down—he stands with his head drooping to the ground, and his nostrils are dilated. He sighs frequently, and his breath is short and panting. His heart and arteries beat irregularly—sometimes stronger, sometimes slower and weaker than in health—his tongue is dry and of an unusual color—his hair is rough. The discharge of feces and urine is unnatural; sometimes more frequent than in health, sometimes the reverse. He lies down and gets up often—he is restless and uneasy. One of the most invariable signs is the appearance of the belly—sometimes swelled—sometimes drawn in—scarcely ever of its natural size.

The following symptoms indicate a very severe form of disease. He cannot rest, either standing or lying down—he drops heavily upon the ground and gets up with difficulty, or is not able to rise at all. His eyes have a staring look—he jumps constantly his sides or breast with his teeth—he froths at the mouth, and bloody mucus trickles from his nostrils. The urine escapes drop by drop, without his stopping as is usual upon such occasions—his other discharges are mixed with blood and slime.

Any of the above-mentioned symptoms indicate disease, and a judgment must be formed from those which appear in any particular case, of the nature and extent of the complaint. To treat it with success, we must search carefully for the cause—we must ascertain its nature, and satisfy ourselves what part of the system is affected, before we give any medicines; otherwise we should be acting blindly, and should frequently give a medicine the very contrary of what was needed, and which would aggravate the disease instead of curing it.

It is necessary to ascertain what is required, and carefully apply the remedies;—if there is fever or inflammation, to give cooling medicines—to relax the system if there is tension—to empty the vessels of a portion of their contents if they are too full—to open the bowels if they are constipated—give tone and strength to the system, or any part in which there is weakness and relaxation.

Where several medicines seem to be required in the same case, give at first the most important, and afterwards the rest.

A loss of appetite, merely, when there is no other sign of disease, yields often to a change of food; and when there are unequivocal signs of disease, it always becomes necessary to adopt a very light diet, until the proper advice and medicines can be procured; he should not have either hay or oats—a handful of meal or bran should be stirred with a bucket of water, and of this mixture the horse should be allowed to drink as much as he will. Lavements are very useful when there is inflammation or derangement of the bowels.

There are some general remedies applicable to a great many cases, and which are often employed as preventives of disease, such as bleeding and purgatives; but care must be taken not to use these powerful remedies too often, and only in cases of real necessity. The use of purgatives is often considered necessary for horses which stand in the stable—are fed high and are seldom used; but they are very rarely required for those which work. But even for such as are idle the most of the time, it would be better to put them occasionally upon a spare diet for a few days, and not give them at any time higher keeping than they need. The same may be said of bleeding, and it is a mistake that any horse requires to be bled at regular intervals unless he is suffering from some actual disease, and even in these cases, when not of the severest kind, a well-regulated diet will often effect a cure.

In fine, we cannot too strongly recommend to those who may happen to have a valuable animal taken sick, to procure the advice and assistance of some one who is well skilled in the veterinary art, and to avoid carefully the worthless and hurtful drugs of those who are totally ignorant of the nature of both diseases and remedies. Many people imagine that nothing is easier than to treat successfully the diseases of the horse, and as whatever is mysterious is attractive to most people, we meet with plenty of pretended veterinary surgeons, who, without having the least anatomical knowledge, profess to cure all the diseases of domestic animals by a few worthless specifics, often accompanied by charms or other superstitious ceremonies.

But veterinary medicine, to be successful, must be based on science and experience—the practitioner must understand the anatomy of the horse—he must be acquainted with the laws of physiology and hygiene—that is, the mechanism of the animal functions, and the influence of natural and accidental causes upon this mechanism; he must have a knowledge of medicines, both simple and compound—their virtues—their effects, and the mode of using them, and a thorough knowledge of the diseases to which domestic animals are subject. Any man who undertakes to practice veterinary medicine without these qualifications, is but an ignorant pretender to the art.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

NEGRO SUFFRAGE. The Constitutional convention of Wisconsin have passed negro suffrage resolutions by a vote of 53 to 46.











